

# St. Mark's Church



**1625 Locust St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103**

[www.saintmarksphiladelphia.org](http://www.saintmarksphiladelphia.org)



# Parish Profile

July 2006

## **Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel through:**

- reverent worship
- ministry to those in need
- preservation of our historic buildings as a public witness to our faith and as instruments for ministry as we grow in Christ

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## Worship

Worship is central to the character of Saint Mark's Church. We have been in the forefront of the liturgical movement from the parish's earliest days, with prayerful implementation of Anglo-Catholic liturgical practice and reform. We see our worship as our greatest strength, the source of our outreach and as a major vehicle for evangelism.



Daily Mass has been celebrated at St. Mark's since 1884. Each weekday the Holy Sacrifice is offered at 7:30 A.M. (Anglican Missal), at noon (Rite II) and on Tuesday (Rite I) following Evening Prayer. Daily prayer is said by lay readers during the week, with Morning Prayer at 8:30 and Evening Prayer at 5:30. On Saturday morning, Confessions are scheduled for 9:30 followed by Mass (Rite II) and the Rosary. Once a month Mass is said at a local nursing home.

Low Mass (Rite I) with hymns and sermon is said at 8:30 on Sunday morning followed by Choral High Mass (Rite II) at 11:00. Solemn Evensong and Benediction are offered on special occasions.





Our practice has been to celebrate the Prayer Book Liturgies with Catholic ceremony and solemnity. Active lay participation by men and women in the liturgy is a long tradition.

Music is an integral part of the solemn liturgies. All parts proper to the celebrant are sung, the Deacon chants the Gospel and dismissal and the choir sings the ordinary, occasional propers, and motets. The choral repertoire draws from every period, from

the Medieval to the present day. Congregational singing is enthusiastic.

The emphasis on basic Christian teaching in the form of catholic, scripture-centered preaching, feeds our spiritual life. Strong preaching skills are critical at St. Mark's Church. Many sermons are published on our web site following delivery.

As part of the stewardship program using the "Appreciative Inquiry" approach, the majority of respondents identified liturgy and music as providing a rich experience of the transcendent. St. Mark's was described as a place where people discover a "sense of the sacred," where the sermons touch their lives and where the liturgy provides a foundation for spiritual growth. Many people value the impact of the musical life of the parish on their lives. One participant summarized the experience of many others when she said that



the mass at St. Mark's provides a "solid," "stable" foundation for growing spirituality and a "pattern for living."



Worship is often the first experience many have in our community and we welcome people searching for a liturgy that is both traditional and welcoming. Our greatest challenges are to maintain a constructive mix of the traditional and contemporary, to deepen the knowledge and practice of catholic spirituality and to reach out to our many visitors. Building on the progress made throughout the years is an essential need of the parish.

Prayer and worship bind us together and form the basis of our mission to the broader church and the community.

## **Community**

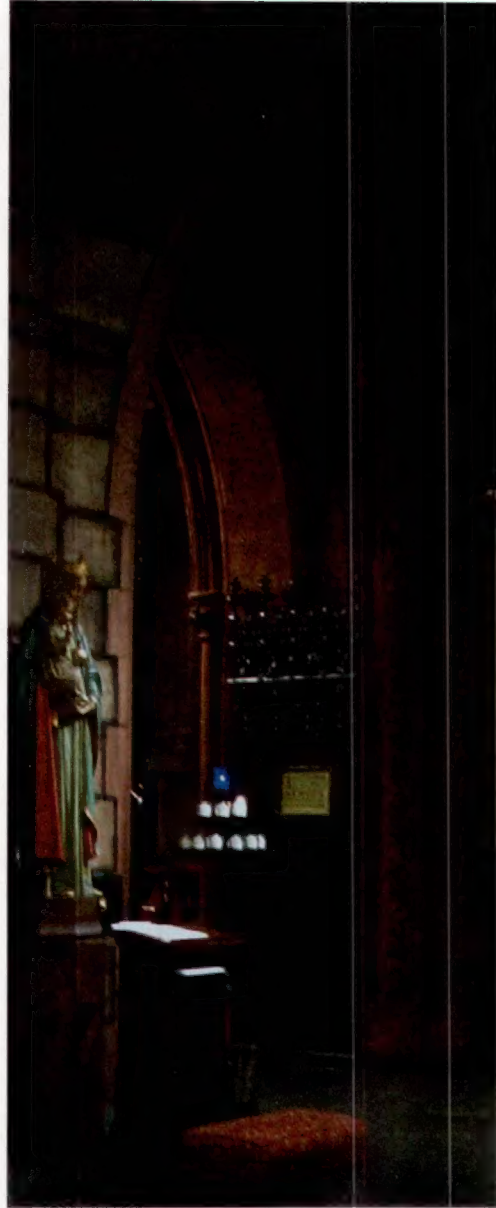
Clergy and laity are welcome to fully participate in our community of faith, regardless of race, gender, social status, income or sexual orientation. We represent a cross section of people living in the tri-state Pennsylvania, New Jersey and



Delaware region. Approximately 30% of us live within walking distance of the church.

We come from a great variety of traditions. Many of us were baptized in the Episcopal Church and many come to us from Roman Catholic and Evangelical backgrounds as well as from Jewish and other traditions. Some are coming to us from no prior religious tradition. As of June we have 33 people scheduled for Confirmation and reception at the Bishop's visitation this coming November.

Education levels range from PhD and Masters degrees (15-20%) to high school graduates. Recently 15 to 20 students from a variety of disciplines have joined our community and actively participate in parish life. Professions include attorneys, physicians, professors, artists, musicians, social workers, business professionals and laborers. Approximately 15% of the congregation is retired. Most of us pledge, vote in parish elections, routinely participate in parish events and are involved in one or more ministries.



The majority of the congregation are 40+, with marked growth in recent years of people under 30. We provide nursery care on Sunday mornings and have a "soft space" in the rear



of the church for our few families with children. Children are encouraged to become involved in the life of the parish as acolytes, as well as in the Diocesan Youth Ministry program.

The income for most of us is above the regional median with a few wealthy congregants. Many in our parish do not have surplus disposable income but give generously of their time and talents. It is not unusual for homeless individuals to join us for worship and fellowship.



Located on the edge of the city's business district, many people pass by on their way to work and some worship with us during the week or join us for special services. This provides us with an important opportunity to minister to people living in the greater region.

Our parish is grounded in worship and prayer, not in politics or controversy. While we have a great variety of opinions and positions on current issues we do not allow them to determine our mission. We respect the authority of our bishop and pray for him at every mass. We are active



members of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Parishioners serve on diocesan and deanery committees and participate in diocesan ministries and missions.

For the most part we are a very sociable and gregarious group. Parish meals, parties, picnics and other enjoyable events are well attended throughout the year.

In our stewardship interviews last fall, many people valued the "diversity, openness and acceptance" of the parish but also expressed a need to know each other better and grow in community.



While we represent a wide range of people and interests, we feel the need for greater representation of the broader community within the parish. The laity at St. Mark's possess considerable gifts: our challenge is to use them to the benefit of the broader church and community, and to provide the kind of constructive leadership and dialogue that we feel the world needs at present.

Parish growth in the last few years has been moderate but steady, and our changing neighborhood gives us the opportunity to expand our outreach and ministry to those in need and alienated from the Church.



## Location

We find ourselves located in a rapidly growing part of the city. The church is located one block east of Rittenhouse



Square, a part of center city that is quickly becoming the premier residential area of the region. Development projects within five blocks walking distance of the church include six new luxury high-rise condominium towers, six major conversions of existing buildings to residential use and many smaller renovation projects. Residential growth in our part of the city is strong and is projected to continue

for some time.

This area has long been the cultural heart of the metropolitan area, with a major resurgence in the past twenty years. The Academy of Music is located two blocks to the east and the Curtis Institute of Music is one block to the west of the church. The new Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is located four blocks to the south-east, and many smaller theatres and concert venues are located within walking distance.

One mile to our west are the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University campuses. Many students at Penn and Drexel, as well as the Academy of the Vocal Arts, Philadelphia



Art Institute, Temple University, the University of the Arts and other institutions live in our neighborhood.

Our center city location serves as a major attraction for visitors. The area is composed of many smaller communities, presenting us with the opportunity to reach out to a varied group of people, and the challenge to build faith and fellowship where non currently exists.



## Outreach

Although we are in the midst of an affluent part of the city, we are also just five blocks north of one of the poorest areas in the city. Many of our outreach initiatives have been directed towards the needs of the people living in this neighborhood.

Income from endowments is available to support the poor in meeting educational expenses. Service in the form of immediate aid was revived in the late 1970's with the opening of our Food Cupboard. Each week an average of 40 households are provided 60 bags of groceries. Throughout the year, donations of clothing, household goods and other items are collected and distributed as needed.



For the past three decades we have supported St. John's Hospice for homeless men (Roman Catholic) with monetary donations, meal preparations and clothing drives. Members of the congregation have taken a lead in organizing meals and services once a year.



Through the leadership of our clergy, we are presently assisting two struggling parishes in adjacent neighborhoods. During the summer, we join St. Mary's Bainbridge St. and Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square in hosting a week long Bible Camp for children. St. Mary's has also received occasional financial assistance from us to support the parish, the St. Dismas ministry to prison congregations and the Bethesda Project, a facility for homeless individuals.

A newer venture is with our sister Anglo-Catholic parish the Church of the Crucifixion. In co-operation with two neighboring parishes, we are contributing time and resources to cleaning the property and supporting ministries. We have also contributed generously to an urgent capital project.

Our commitment to both of these parishes is to aid them in their current ministries and assist them in keeping their doors open.

Last fall we adopted the parish of St. Mark's, Gulfport MS, as a mission of St. Mark's, enabling us to provide financial assistance in their efforts to minister to their neighbors. A number of parishioners and students from local



universities, led by our Curate, spent a week under the direction of the Bishop of Louisiana in relief work.

Food and fellowship are provided to the homeless men and women of center city at our Saturday Soup Bowl. Volunteers from a number of parishes throughout the region have helped us in preparing the food, setting-up the Parish Hall and serving meals. Each week between 60 and 100 people are provided a hot meal. Christmas morning is a special occasion for this ministry, the Parish Hall is decorated and a full hot breakfast is served. Decorations and music contribute a joyful note to the occasion. Last year more than 30 people helped decorate and serve breakfast to 250 homeless people and to distributed 175 gift bags containing clothing and toiletries.



The parish hall is home to a number of AA groups and is available to community organizations needing facilities in Center City.

In our recent stewardship campaign, several people identified involvement in our outreach ministries as an extremely important part of parish life, giving us an opportunity to live what we pray.

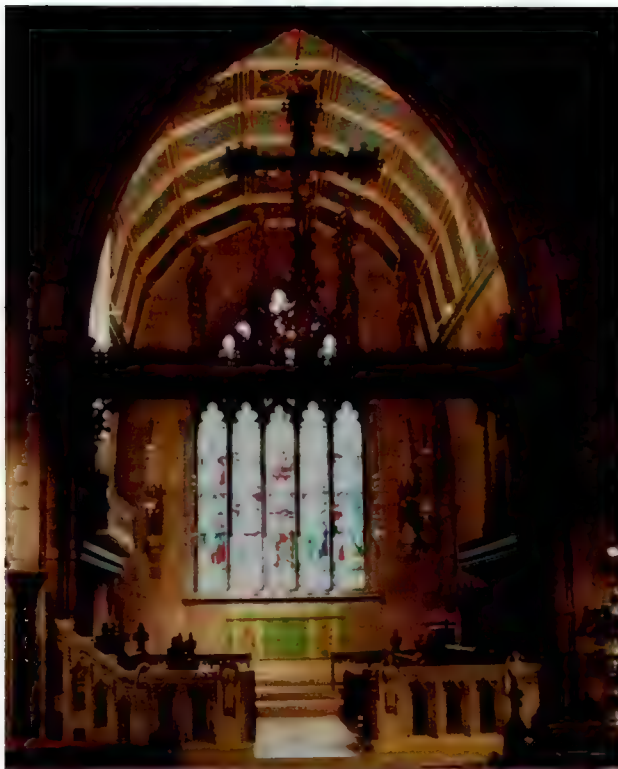


In the last decade, our outreach to the homeless, to those in need and to struggling parishes has grown. We believe this ministry is faithfully witnessing to the Incarnation in a broken world, but is not enough. We need to grow in our service to the poor by involving more volunteers and by being more responsive to those in need.

## **Ministry**

Many of our people participate in one or more of our organized ministries and give generously of their time and talents. It is through the valued efforts of our volunteers that much of the work of the parish is prayerfully done.

The brief descriptions below provide only an overview.



The men and women in St. Mark's Guild of Acolytes are dedicated to serving the Lord in the liturgy. We participate in Solemn Mass as Sub-Deacon, Chalice Bearer/Crucifer, Master of Ceremonies, Thurifer and Torch Bearers. Our younger children participate in this ministry as boat-bearers, with high school students serving with adults as torch bearers. Presently 10 people are licensed by the diocese as Eucharistic Ministers.

For Sunday and weekday Low Mass we have a committed group of servers.

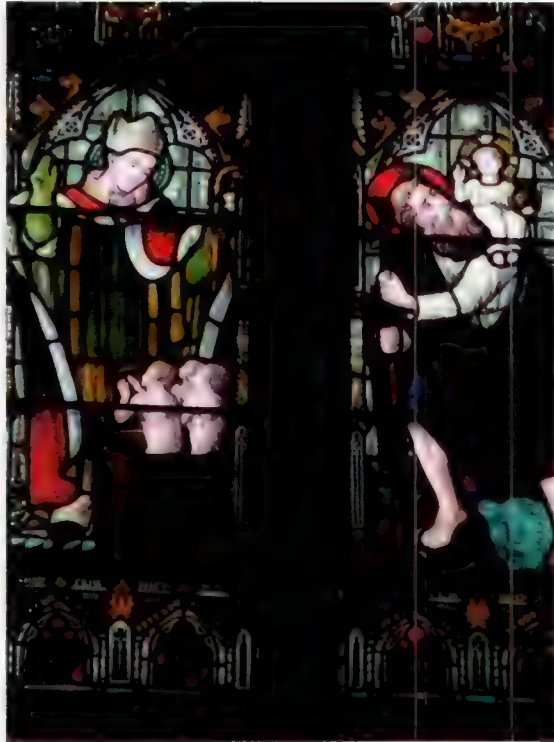


Our lectors read the Old Testament lesson and Epistle at Sunday Masses and on special occasions, such as Lessons and Carols, Evensong and Tenebrae.

Morning and Evening Prayer are said publicly each week day and are led by lay readers.

Preparation for Mass and care for the vestments are the duty of our Altar Guild. We have a small group of dedicated people assigned to each Mass for preparation and clean up. Given the number of services each week, this is a very active ministry.

Our ushers greet visitors as they arrive in church, providing leaflets, arranging for the oblation bearers, and answering visitors' questions. Our ushers are alert to emergencies, and may be called upon to assist someone in distress. They are the first to arrive at Mass and the last to leave.



Our choir sings for all High Masses and special occasions from October through Corpus Christi and is comprised of a core of paid section leaders and talented volunteers. General musical oversight is the responsibility of Matthew Glandorf who joins Diane Belcher as conductor and organist.

The Friends of Music exists as a support group for both the liturgical and extra-liturgical musical activities of the parish. This group has primarily concerned itself with fundraising for such objectives as the restoration and additions to the church's famous pipe organ, planning special

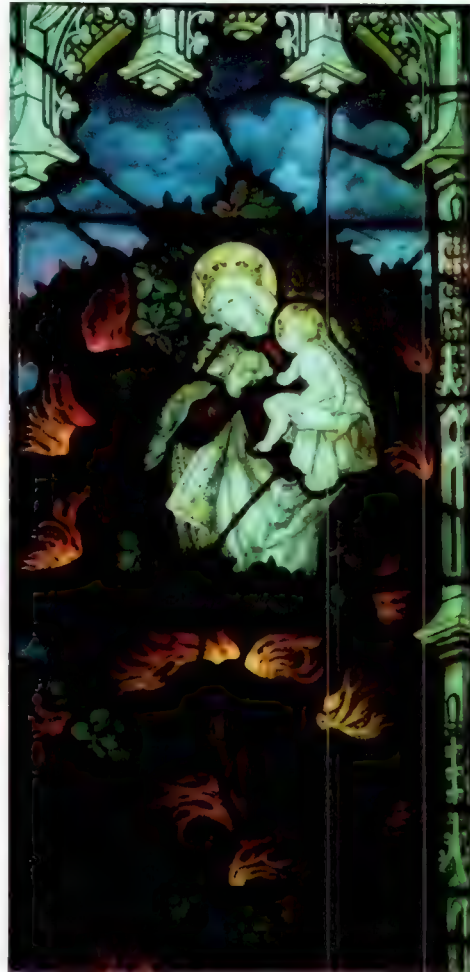
programs that reach out to the surrounding community, and providing receptions at these events.

St. Mark's is host to a local chapter of the Philadelphia Guild of Change Ringers. The bells are rung on festivals and special occasions. The tower was refurbished and bells re-hung as part of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Detailed information is available on the chapter website (<http://www.phillyringers.com>).

Our ward of the Society of Mary was formed in 2000, and meets regularly to pray the Rosary. It is dedicated to Mary, Ark of The Covenant.

Hospitality is a significant characteristic of Saint Mark's Church. The many forms of sharing food and refreshment provide the parish family with opportunities to come together and celebrate as a family. The coffee hour each Sunday, the monthly birthday celebrations, feast day pot luck suppers, receptions and parish picnics provide the parish many opportunities for fellowship.

The newcomer ministry is responsible for making sure that new people are recognized, welcomed, and as involved in the parish life as they would like to be. Members of the committee provide information about the parish and host a number of events throughout the year.





Our volunteer gardeners spend time each week maintaining one of the few private green spaces left in Center City.

Our office volunteers assist the clergy in special projects, regularly produce the parish newsletter and maintain the membership database and parish archives.



Organized pastoral care initiatives are under the direction of the laity in close co-operation with the clergy. These are in response to specific needs and are mainly focused on supporting those who live alone. Some of our parishioners are trained or licensed to provide care and give generously of their time.

Our chapter of the knitting ministry "Prayerful Hands" has three areas of focus; prayer shawls for the sick, scarves for our Food Cupboard recipients and gifts for newborns.

On the second Saturday of the month, a group joins our clergy for Mass and fellowship at a local nursing home.

The bereavement support group meets throughout the year and is open to all. The format is open discussion and often includes people in the surrounding community.

Our ministries are mainly focused on the liturgical life of the parish and providing assistance to those in need. We feel the need to improve communication and co-ordination and to increase participation by parishioners and neighbors. The principal challenges in the future are: identifying needs that are not being met, supporting individual initiatives in on-going care, and training of our volunteers.

## Education

We have an active adult education program, with presentations on Sunday Mornings led by clergy and laity. Topics cover a variety of subjects ranging from introduction to Anglo-Catholic practice to current issues facing the church. The format is flexible and ranges from lecture to active discussion. Subjects this past spring included: Medieval Women Mystics, Lent with Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Marian Devotion and the crisis in Darfur. Recently a Wednesday evening Bible study has been added.



The church school for children was re-started in 1976 and has continued throughout the years. Using a variety of curricula, we try to incorporate our few children into the life of the parish and provide them with a grounding in the catholic faith.

Education for adults and children is critical to the future of the parish. Many people do not know our tradition or history and are eager to learn. Our programs are an opportunity to present the faith as we have received it, and form our lives in the service of the Gospel. St. Mark's is distinctive: catholic in practice, orthodox in belief and open to engaging the contemporary world in living the Gospel. This presents a great opportunity for evangelism and for church growth, especially to families with young children.



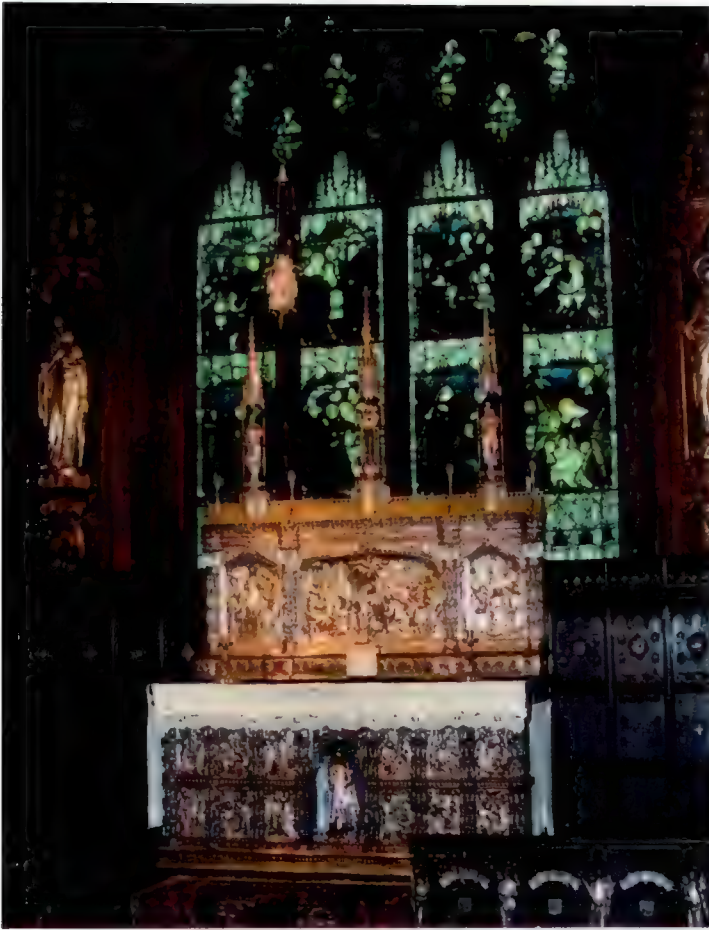
## Church Buildings

Designed as an English city-church by John Notman in 1847, the church building remains essentially unchanged from the original design. The long south front of the nave, chancel and tower face Locust Street. The exterior is brown stone in a simplified Decorated Style. The nave will seat approximately three hundred people comfortably and a



hundred more can be accommodated as needed for solemn liturgies and concerts. An altar dedicated to St. John the Evangelist is located at the head of the north aisle. The chancel, with rood beam, choir stalls, organ loft and console was embellished in the 1890's and last renovated in 1964. At that time the new high altar was placed in the same position as the original altar but away from the wall, enabling the sacred ministers to face the people during the Consecration.





The Lady Chapel was erected on the south side of the chancel in 1900 as a memorial to Fernanda Wanamaker, many of the vestments, plate and processional crosses used in our regular worship were donated by her husband.

The Parish Hall is divided into three stories. The ground floor houses offices, storage and a nursery. The second floor is one large room that can be divided into smaller meeting spaces, and has a recently

upgraded kitchen. The third floor houses the library and choir facilities.

The adjacent Rectory was built in 1892 as a clergy residence with four floors. Much of the interior is original, the first floor kitchen and an apartment on the third floor have been renovated. A clear vision for this resource has not been discerned; substantial rehabilitation for any use will be necessary in the near future.

Twenty years ago a thorough study of the buildings was completed and a long range plan for preservation and use established. The first phase resulted in the capital funds campaign of 1989-1990 and secured funds needed for essential repairs and improvements. The second phase is currently in development.

Subsequent projects have included reconfiguring the bell tower for change ringing and replacement of electrical systems. A major overhaul of organ support systems has been completed and additional ranks added in the rear of the church.



Much work remains to be done to preserve our buildings, make them handicap accessible and equip them for future use. A Capital Funds drive is planned in the near future to meet some of these needs.

## **Staff**

St. Mark's clergy includes two full-time priests assisted by two part-time priests. Parish administration is supported by a full-time financial secretary, a weekday sexton, a weekend sexton and an administrator for the Food Cupboard. The music program is supported by two part-time parish musicians as conductors/organists and eight section leaders. The parish does not employ a parish secretary or



administrator at the current time. The lay staff may be reconfigured to accommodate the needs of the new rector.

All staff report directly to the rector with the officers of the Vestry providing guidance and assistance when required.

## **Vestry**

The vestry is composed of twelve parishioners in good standing, elected for a three year term. Meetings are monthly, our mission is to work closely with the clergy and lay leadership to foster parish life and to attend to the temporal affairs of St. Mark's. Standing committees include Building and Properties, Finance, and Stewardship. Ad hoc committees are formed as needed.



## **Trustees of Endowment**

The parish is the beneficiary of a number of legacies, most of which are managed by the Trustees of Endowments for St. Mark's Church, Inc., a separate corporate entity.

It is the fiduciary responsibility of the nine Trustees to maintain and grow assets under management while providing income for the parish. The trustees are responsible for hiring the investment manager, monitoring performance and determining disbursements. This 501(c)(3) corporation was



formed on 1 October 1934 and the assets of 33 separate legacies were consolidated into one unitized fund. In the past, the Trustees have approved loans to the parish for urgent capital projects. The current outstanding balance is \$220,000.

One third of the total assets are managed by outside trustees. This income is largely restricted to support specific ministries.



## **Financial Summary**

Each fall the vestry carefully prepares the budget for the coming year. We strive for a balanced budget that provides for the needs of the parish, supports mission initiatives and the diocese.

For 2006, 43% of parish income will be from parish support, 52% from the endowment income and 5% from other sources. Expenses break down as follows:

Clergy & Administration	52%
Buildings & Property	19%
Program	18%
Outreach	11%



## Statistics

### Attendance

	1986	1996	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Lent I</b>	221	157	214	241	227	173	181	225
<b>Easter</b>	573	525	544	503	561	516	438	600
<b>Pentecost</b>	247	143	265	211	246	176	200	186
<b>Advent I</b>	245	230	332	336	305	299	355	
<b>Christmas</b>	427	339	466	481	453	520	668	

### Membership

	1986	1996	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Parishioners</b>	209	196	217	225	221	232	232	254
<b>Baptisms</b>	--	3	6	10	5	12	10	11
<b>Confirmation/ Reception</b>	28	0	6	6	12	8	11	7
<b>Death</b>	4	3	5	8	6	3	6	5



**We seek a rector who is:**

- Catholic in faith and practice
- Committed to public daily prayer and worship
- Supportive of our music program and competent in singing ability
- Dedicated to personal involvement in the parish
- Able to relate to a wide variety of persons
- Serious in his/her personal commitment to outreach and mission
- Experienced in administration
- Energetic and enthusiastic in his/her vocation
- A leader in education

**We seek a rector who will:**

- Build on our solid foundations of community and outreach
- Maintain the high level of stimulating preaching
- Lead us in love and service to one another and to the community
- Communicate the riches of our catholic faith and tradition
- Challenge us to be more responsive in our ministries and outreach
- Develop and support lay leadership
- Work with the Vestry in implementing plans for our buildings and capital funds drive
- Guide the staff and volunteers to grow spiritually and work effectively
- Assist us in attracting families with children